

SILVER EYE CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

1015 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

GALLERY HOURS

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Admission is Free

412.431.1810 | www.silvereye.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SILVER EYE CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY HOSTS FIRST MAJOR EXHIBITION BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S MELISSA FARLOW AND RANDY OLSON

“The World at Our Door” exhibition begins September 23, 2009

PITTSBURGH, Pa., 09/12/09 – Pittsburgh’s Melissa Farlow and Randy Olson have chronicled the world as long-time contributors to *National Geographic* magazine. In the award-winning couple’s first major exhibition, *The World at Our Door*, Farlow and Olson bring their journey back to Pittsburgh. The exhibition will open September 23rd and will feature 50 large-scale color images from assignments published between 1999 and 2009. “The World at Our Door” will be on view through January 2, 2010 at Silver Eye Center for Photography, 1015 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. **Gallery Hours:** Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The **Opening Reception** will be held Saturday, September 26, 6:00 - 8:30p.m. Members and students free; non-members \$5.00. 1015 East Carson Street, South Side. A lecture and book signing with the artists will be held on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild Auditorium. Free with limited seating. Co-sponsored with the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild.

Melissa Farlow and Randy Olson have been married for 23 years. Series from both photojournalists are featured in this exhibition; their individual assignments come together to tell a collaborative story about strength, struggle, and hope.

“We both feel a commitment to photojournalism. We want our images to make a difference,” says Farlow, “The diversity of people and how they live, their habits, their rituals, their relationships, and their beliefs – is significant.”

Through Farlow and Olson’s keen eyes, we explore middle-class China; the terrain and people of the Alps; the endangered wild horses of Kamchatka; hardships in the Sudan; life along the Pan-American Highway; the last salmon stronghold on the planet; the beauty of America’s public lands; and the human price of gold.

“We photograph real people—unexposed—and try to show them as they really are,” says Farlow, “Our hope is that a viewer will take from it the things we have in common with others that may seem so different, or to show reality with the viewer being the judge.” From the tough, grim subjects in Olson’s series *The Human Cost of Gold* and *Sudan* to the spirited beauty of Farlow’s series *Mustangs: Wild Horses*, the exhibition brings the world right to Pittsburgh’s doorstep.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Melissa Farlow was a staff photographer at the *Pittsburgh Press* and the *Courier-Journal* and *Louisville Times* in Kentucky before working as a freelancer. While in Louisville, she was part of team that won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of desegregation in the public schools. Her images have also won multiple awards in the Pictures of the Year International Competition (POYi) sponsored by The Missouri School of Journalism. She received her B.A. in journalism from Indiana University and her M.A. from the University of Missouri, where she also taught photojournalism. She has been a faculty member at the Missouri Photo Workshop and the Center for Photographic Studies in Louisville.

Randy Olson was named the Magazine Photographer of the Year for 2003 in the POYi competition. He was also awarded Newspaper Photographer of the Year in 1992, one of only two photographers to win the title in both categories. Apart from his 17 years as a contributor to National Geographic, Olson has undertaken long-term projects on a family with AIDS (supported by an Alicia Patterson Fellowship) and problems with Section 8 housing, which earned him a Robert F. Kennedy Award. Olson received his B.A. in journalism from the University of Kansas and his M.A. from the University of Missouri, where he also taught photojournalism.

Silver Eye Center for Photography is generously supported by its members and by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Fine Foundation, The Grable Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, The A.W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation and Anonymous.

The mission of Silver Eye Center for Photography is to serve the public through exposure to a wide range of work by locally, nationally and internationally recognized photographers. A Pittsburgh institution since 1979, Silver Eye Center for Photography is the oldest non-profit organization in Western Pennsylvania dedicated solely to the understanding, appreciation, education, and promotion of photography as an art form and as an expressive form of visual communication.

SILVER EYE CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY • 1015 EAST CARSON STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15203
GALLERY HOURS: Wednesday-Friday: Noon – 6pm Saturday: 11am – 5pm Also available by appointment.
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